

LATE

HR-88

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 12:27:28 AM

Testimony for LMG on 3/21/2019 3:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ann S Freed | Hawaii Women's Coalition | Support | No |

Comments:



LATE

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Date: March 21, 2019

To: The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Chair
The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
House Committee on Legislative Management

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony Supporting the Intent of H.C.R. 93 and H.R. 88 with
Comments
Requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of
requiring health insurers to provide coverage for clinical victim support
services for victims of sexual violence and abuse.

Good afternoon Chair Cullen, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the House
Committee on Legislative Management:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports the intent of H.R. 88 and
H.C.R. 93, and offers the following comments.

Clinical victim support services are a mental health outpatient service delivered
by licensed mental health providers with whom victims of sexual violence have
an established therapeutic relationship. They can include coordinating with other
health care providers, working with schools, employers, and others on
reasonable accommodations for the victim's mental health conditions, and
assisting a victim to access programs and services. These services are a best
practice and are medically necessary for some victims to recover and heal.

Unfortunately, the choice by some health insurers to decline coverage for
appropriate clinical victim support services continues to prevent victims from
accessing services and reduces their options for treatment.

While we support moving forward with ensuring coverage of clinical victim
support services across all insurance plans, SATC respectfully prefers the
current language of S.B. 1036 S.D. 1 H.D. 1.

S.B. 1036 S.D. 1 H.D. 1 would exempt clinical victim support services from
requiring the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of coverage
pursuant to H.R.S. Section 23-51, in line with the following updates:

- Hawai'i's largest health insurance provider is in fact covering clinical victim support services, retroactively to January 1, 2019, as part of its outpatient mental health services benefit, allowing therapists to bill clinical victim support services as defined in H.B. 484 and S.B. 1036.
- Hawai'i's second largest health insurance provider has demonstrated that it has long provided coverage for clinical victim support services for patients receiving therapy within its closed provider network, and has stated its good faith intent to cover the services for those patients who are referred out of their closed network to providers in the community as part of its outpatient mental health services benefit.

As such, H.B. 484 and S.B. 1036 might—rather than providing a new coverage mandate—be construed as clarifying the existing outpatient mental health services benefit requirement, consistent with the new status quo for most Hawai'i providers and patients.

SATC appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure.